



# Who is Sharper?

Gunamani Nath

*Art by*

Durlabh Bhattacharjee







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Once on an island, in the middle of the river, there lived a fox.  
He lived by eating small animals that were thrown ashore by  
the floodwater of the river.





One day a goat and a few rabbits were washed ashore on the island. The fox was very happy. He began to catch and eat the rabbits one after another.

The goat observed all this and became very scared of the fox. He lost his sleep for the fear of the fox.









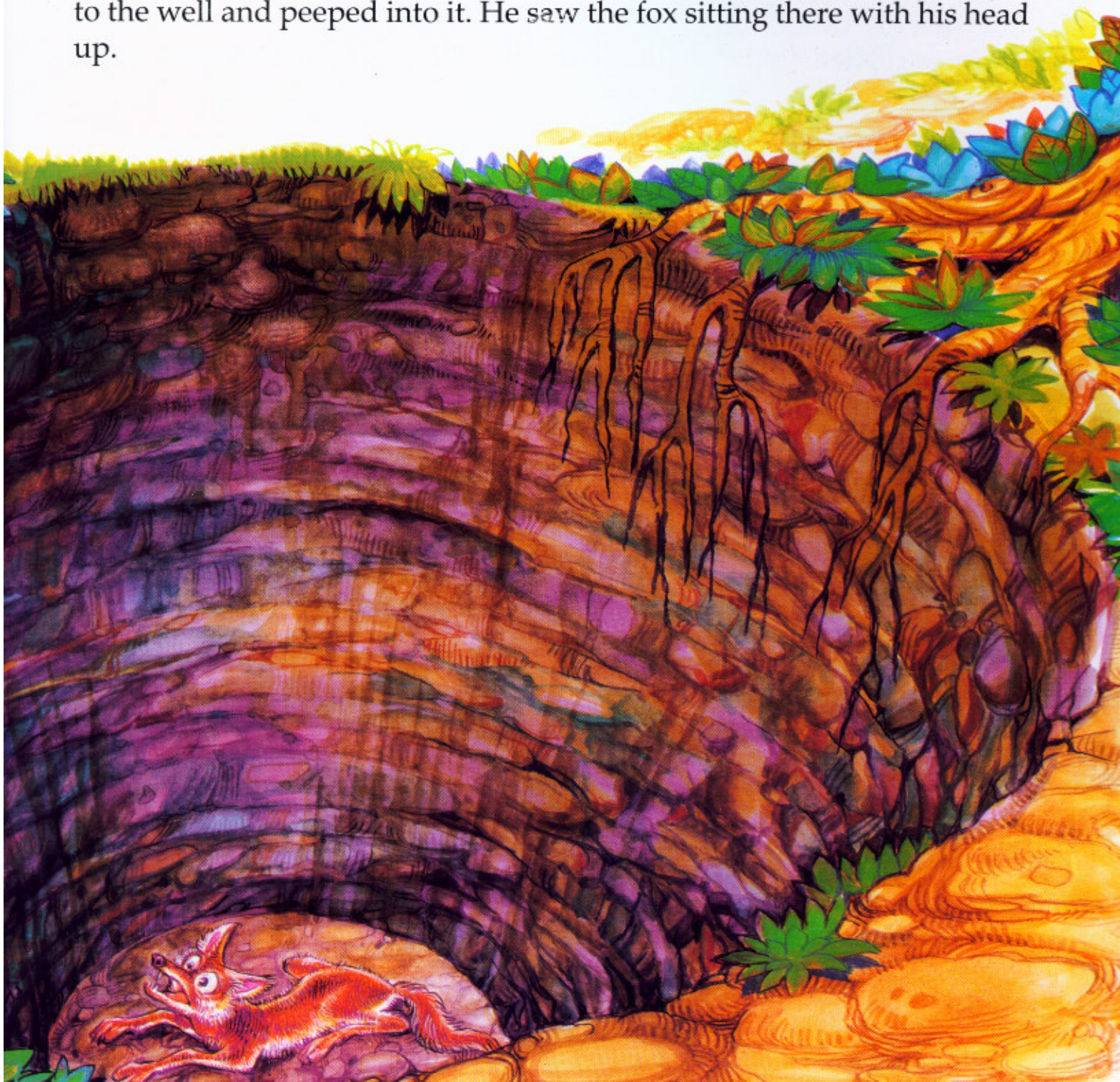
One day while chasing a rabbit the fox fell in a deep well.

The goat, while grazing came near the well. To make him hear, the fox cried loudly, "Save me! Save me!"





"Who is it?" the goat looked all around him. Then he came close to the well and peeped into it. He saw the fox sitting there with his head up.



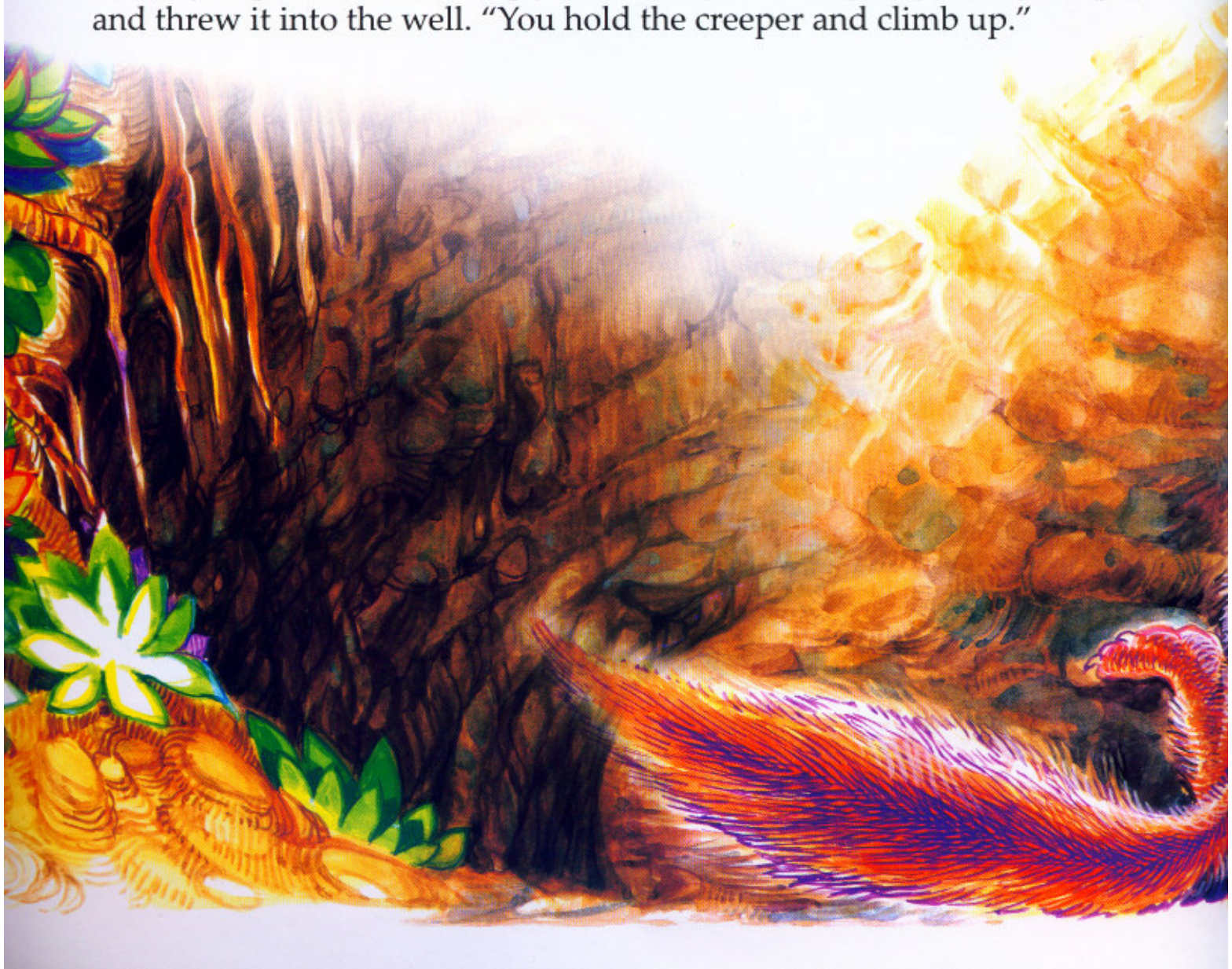


The fox made an earnest request, "Friend save me. Get me out of this well."

The goat replied, "Why should I invite trouble for myself by getting you out of the well?"

The fox said, "I have lost my eye sight. I will not eat you. I promise."

"Ok, if you promise, I will help you," saying this, the goat got a big creeper and threw it into the well. "You hold the creeper and climb up."









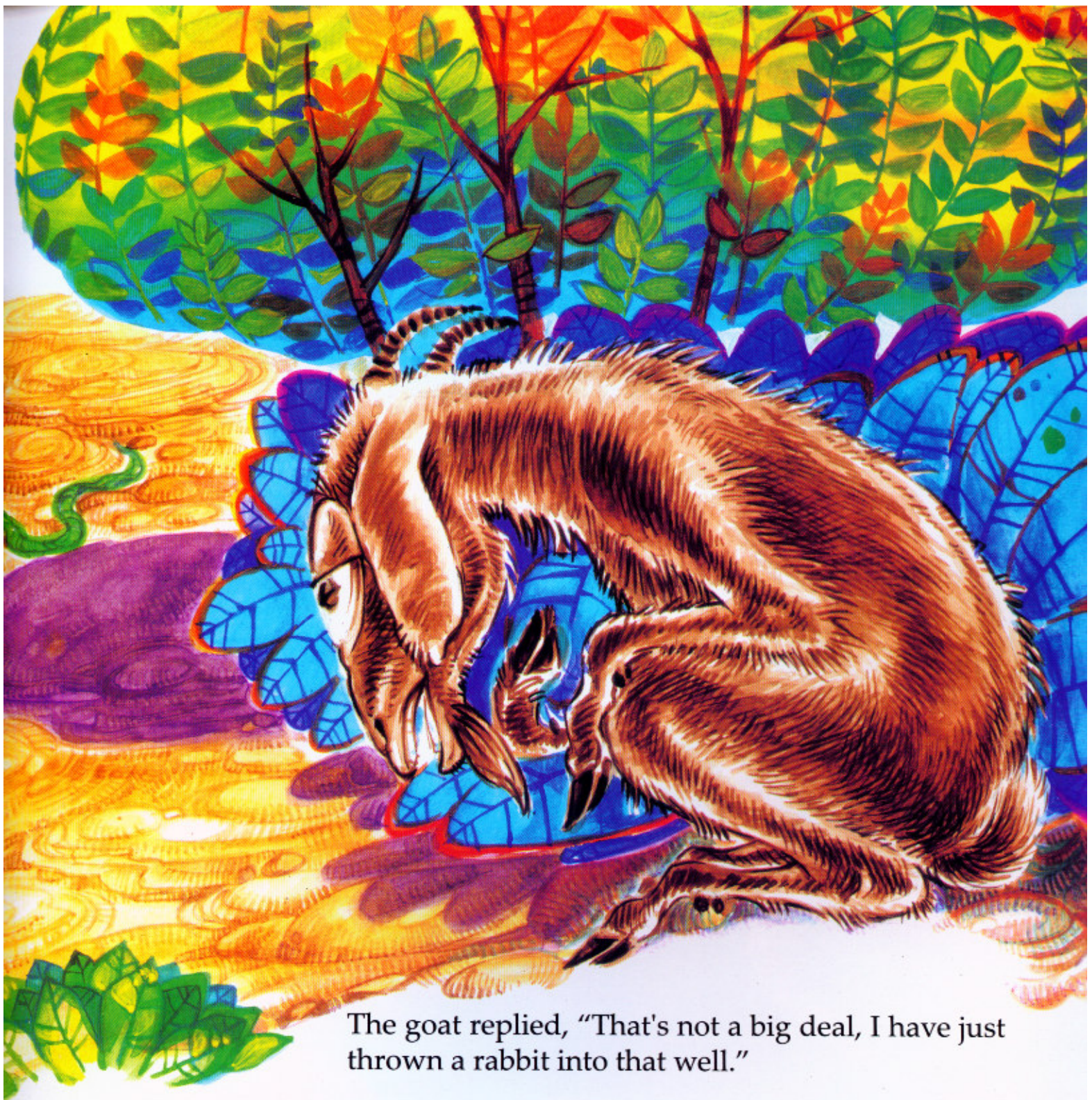
Holding the creeper the fox climbed up and came out safely. He then started chasing the goat.

Finding no other way to escape, the goat came up with an idea and said, "I am old now. You will not enjoy my dry meat."

The fox said, "Then bring me a rabbit."





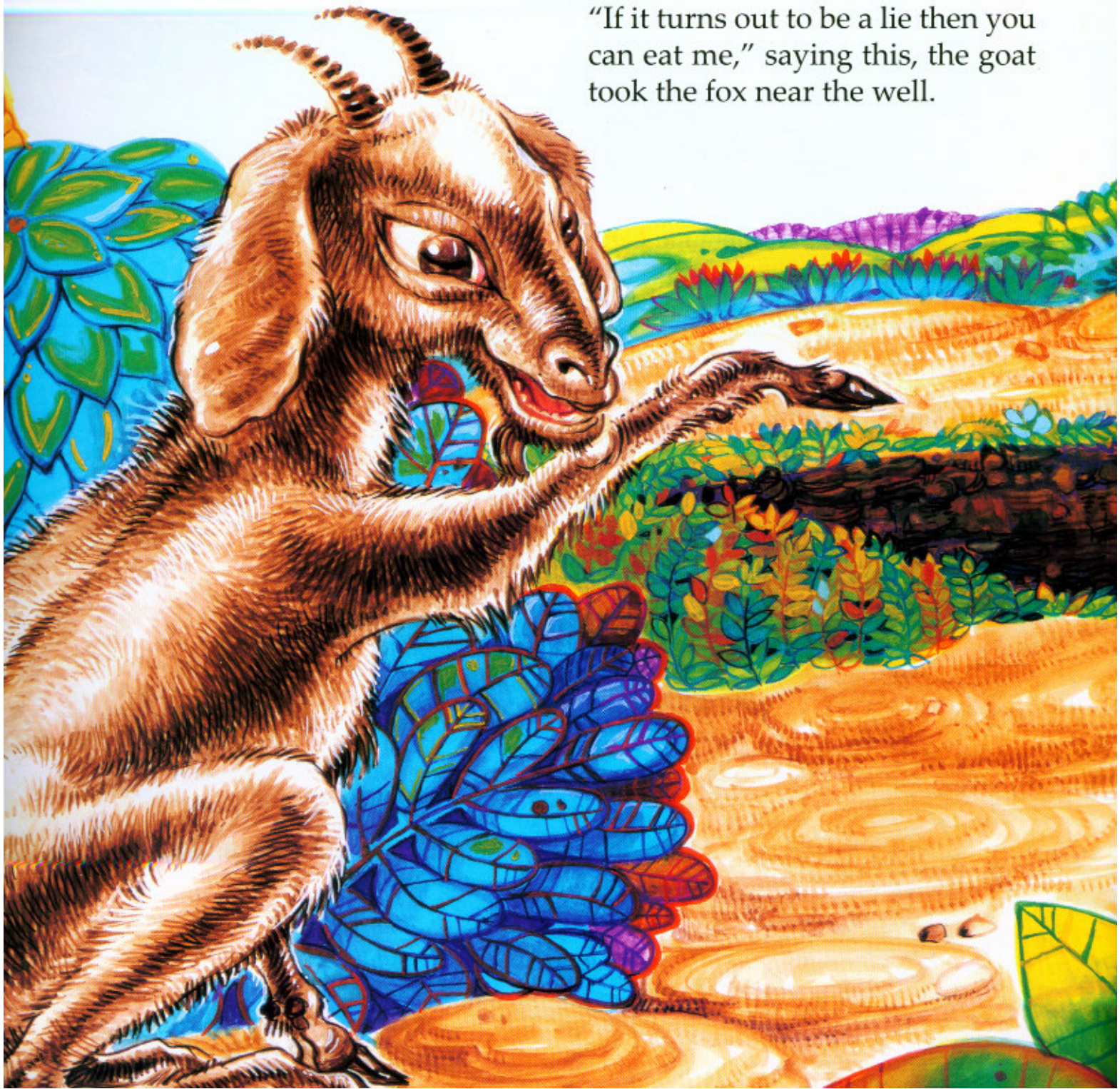


The goat replied, "That's not a big deal, I have just thrown a rabbit into that well."



"Is it true?" the fox asked.


"If it turns out to be a lie then you can eat me," saying this, the goat took the fox near the well.









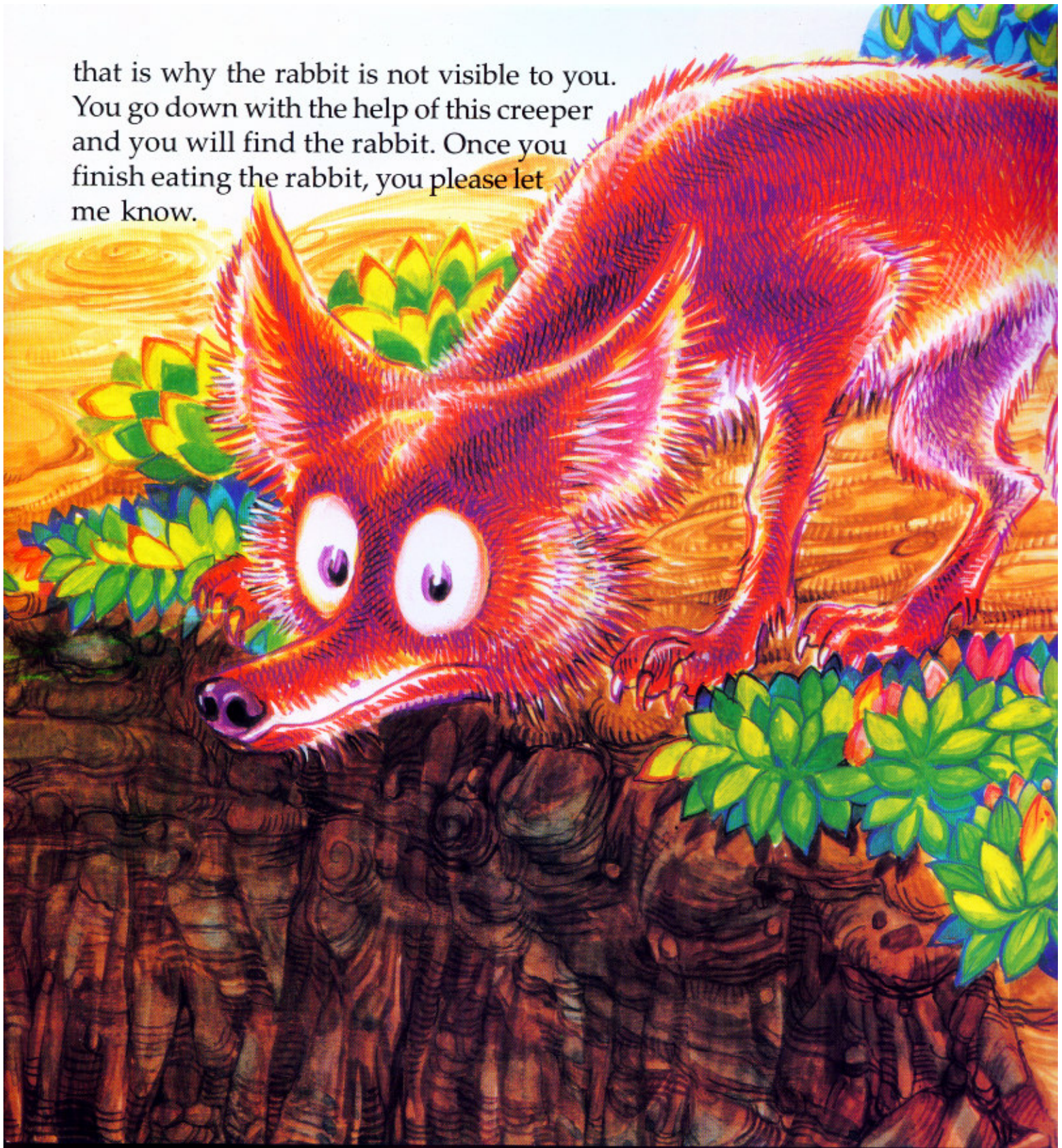
A detailed illustration of a brown goat with small horns, looking down into a well. The goat's head and front legs are visible as it leans over the edge. Inside the well, there are several large, colorful plants with leaves in shades of green, yellow, orange, and blue. The water in the well is a golden-yellow color. The background shows the rocky interior of the well.

Looking down the well the fox  
asked anxiously, "Where is the  
rabbit?"

The goat replied, "Friend, you  
said that you cannot see properly,



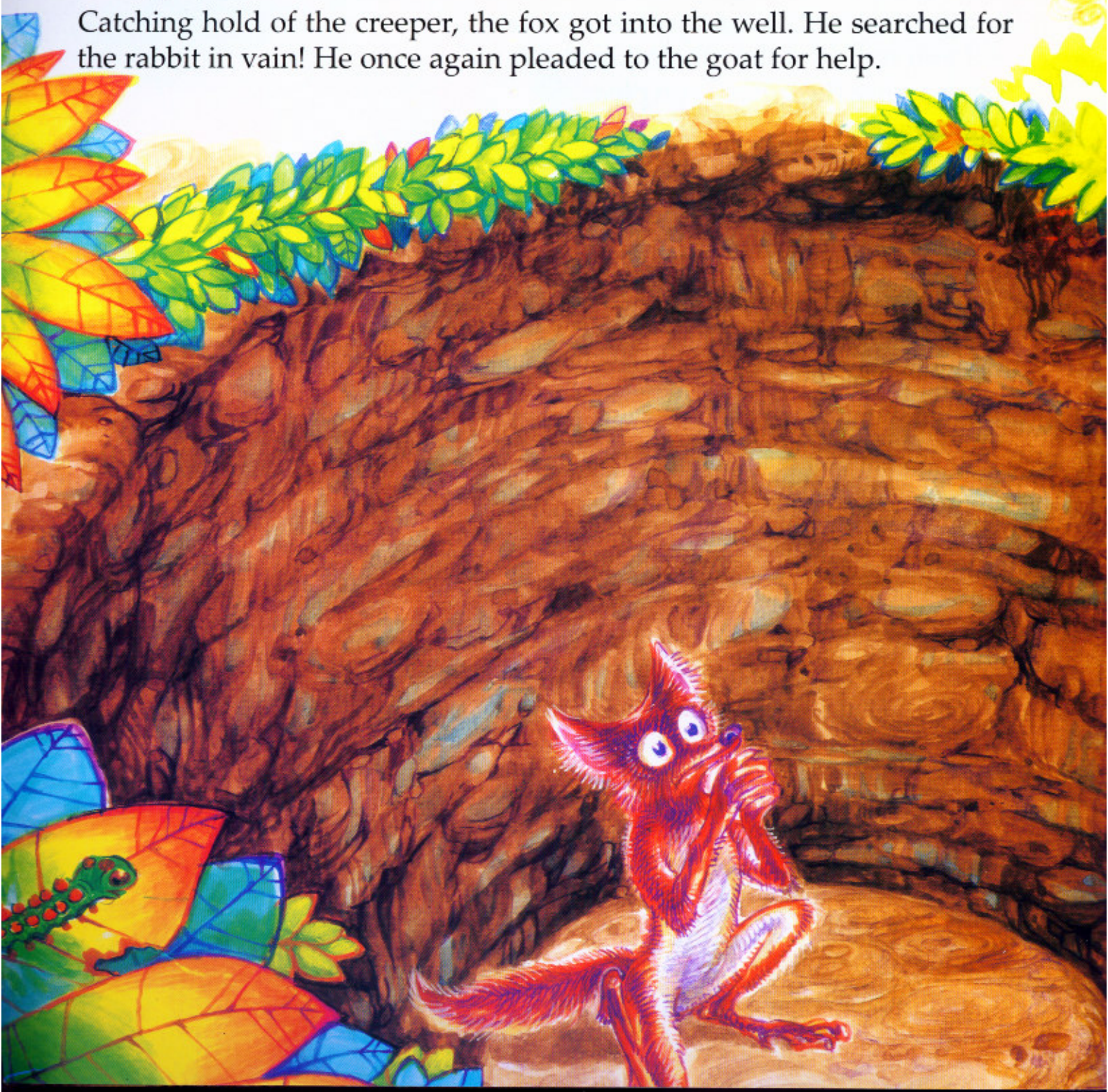
that is why the rabbit is not visible to you.  
You go down with the help of this creeper  
and you will find the rabbit. Once you  
finish eating the rabbit, you please let  
me know.



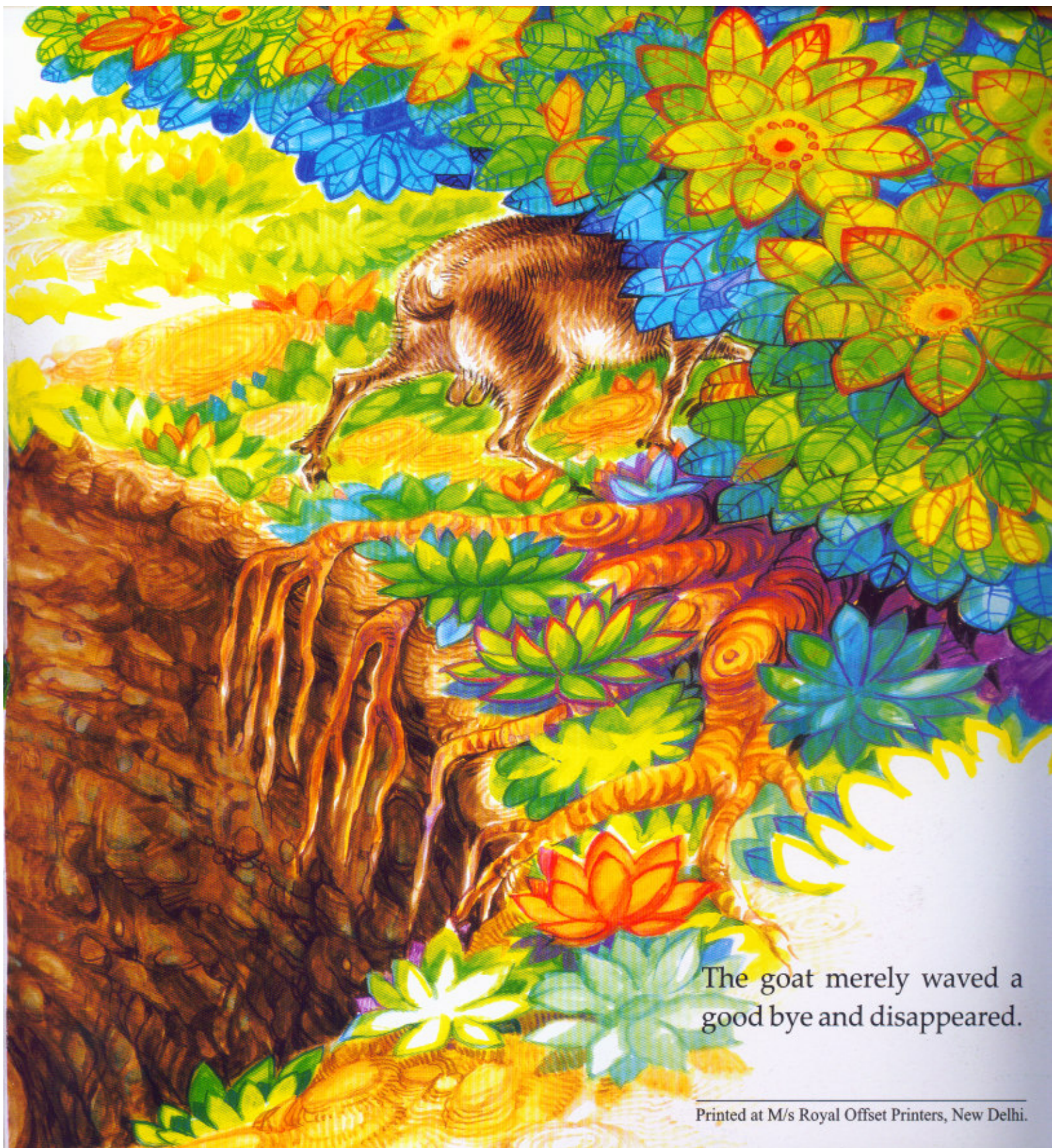


I will get you out of the well!"

Catching hold of the creeper, the fox got into the well. He searched for the rabbit in vain! He once again pleaded to the goat for help.







The goat merely waved a  
good bye and disappeared.

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